

Message Text

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ACTION IO-06

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AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN NEW YORK 00605

LIMDIS

FODAG

FOR IO MAYNES FROM AMB WELLS

E.011652:GDS
TAGS: AORG, UN
SUBJECT: WFP DEPUTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTORSHIP

1. I SPOKE TO RAFAEUDIN AHMED, THE SECRETARY GENERAL'S
CHEF DE CABINET, SATURDAY TO INDICATE WE UNDERSTOOD WFP
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR VOGEL WAS ABOUT TO APPOINT BRITO (BRAZI-
LIAN) AS HIS DEPUTY. I GAVE HIM THE GIST OF PARA 3 REFTTEL#
AND INDICATED WE WOULD FOLLOW-UP THIS WEEK.
2. AHMED PROMISED TO CONVEY THIS TO WALDHEIM BUT SUGGESTED
THAT SINCE BRITO CANDIDACY WAS NOT NEW NEWS US APPROACH MAY
BE TOO LATE (FYI JOHN WOLF SUGGESTS THAT FIRST CON-
CRETE INDICATION OF NOMINATION CAME ONLY THIS MONTH).
3. WOLF SPOKE AT LENGTH WITH VOGEL TUESDAY. VOGEL SUG-
GESTED THAT WHILE NOMINATION AND APPOINTMENT NOT FORMALLY
SET IN STONE, BRITO HAS STRONG SUPPORT IN ROME AND
NEW YORK AS WELL AS AMONG MANY MEMBERS. WHILE HE ACKNOWLEDGE
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EDGES TAKING SEMI-POSITIVE STANCE ON BRITO, VOGEL CONCEDED
THAT BRITO DOES NOT HAVE DESIRED EXPERIENCE AND THAT HE
WILL HAVE MUCH TO LEARN BUT STRESSED THAT HE UNDER CONSIDER-
ABLE PRESSURE TO MAKE THIS APPOINTMENT. HE URGED THAT USG
NOT REJECT BRITO AS ONE WITH WHOM USG COULD NOT WORK AND
SUGGESTED PERHAPS HE WOULD GROW IN OFFICE. HE ALSO NOTED
THAT IF APPOINTMENT DID NOT WORK OUT HE WOULD BE AMONG THOSE

ABLE TO CRITICIZE CHOICE
(SIC).

4. WOLF ALSO SPOKE TO FRANK SHEFERIN (CANADA). SHEFERIN, WHILE NOT SUPPORTIVE OF APPOINTMENT, WAS NON-COMMITTAL ABOUT WHETHER CANADA WOULD FORMALLY INDICATE CONCERN TO VOGEL, SYG OR SAOUMA.

5. WHILE WE MAY HAVE SUCCEEDED IN PUTTING A HOLD ON THIS NOMINATION, WITHOUT SOME SUPPORT FROM OTHERS WE ARE NOT GOING TO BLOCK BRITO. I SUGGEST THE DEPARTMENT AUTHORIZE EMBASSIES OTTAWA, CANBERRA, OSLO, BONN, LONDON, TO MAKE APPROACHES TO SOLICIT BACKING.

6. IN OTTAWA APPROACH SHOULD BE MADE ABOVE SHEFERIN LEVEL. IN CANBERRA EMBASSY SHOULD CONTACT ASSISTANT SECRETARY PAUL KELLOWAY, AUSTRALIAN AID PROGRAM.

7. ALTHOUGH THIS CABLE AND REFTEL COULD PROVIDE BACKGROUND SUGGEST APPROPRIATE TALKING POINTS IN CAPITALS WOULD BE:
--WE UNDERSTAND CURRENT DEPUTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR USTUN RETIRING IN 1978.
--WE FEEL HIS REPLACEMENT SHOULD HAVE THE HIGH DEGREE OF TECHNICAL SKILLS NECESSARY TO LET HIM ACT AS ALTER EGO TO EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, AND INTERNATIONAL STATURE (I.E., NOT JUST IN ROME OR NEW YORK) TO COMMAND WIDESPREAD SUPPORT
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FOR CHOICE.

--CANDIDATE SHOULD BE ONE WHOM ALL WFP MEMBERS, DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING, RESPECT AND WITH WHOM ALL CAN WORK WITH CONFIDENCE.

--AMONG THE NAMES MENTIONED MOST PROMINENTLY IS THAT OF BERNARDO DE AZEVEDO BRITO, THE BRAZILIAN PERMREP TO FAO.

--WHILE WE HAVE FOUND BRITO A STIMULATING REPRESENTATIVE WITH WHOME TO WORK OVER THE YEARS, WE HAVE INDICATED TO SYG WALDHEIM AND TO VOGEL THAT WE CANNOT SUPPORT BRITO.

--VOGEL HAS HINTED AT BROAD SUPPORT FOR BRITO AND WE WONDER WHAT ATTITUDE HOST GOVERNMENT HAS.

--IF IT SHARES OUR STRONG CONCERN, WE URGE THAT IT INDICATE THIS QUICKLY TO VOGEL, THE SECRETARY GENERAL AND OR FAO DG SAOUMA.

8. WE NOTE DG SAOUMA HAS NOT BEEN TARGETED FOR DEMARCHE. SINCE HE INEVITABLY WILL FIND OUT, WHY NOT FACE HIM DIRECTLY AS WELL? LEONARD

NOTE BY OC/T: #REFTEL OMITTED BY DRAFTING OFFICER.

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